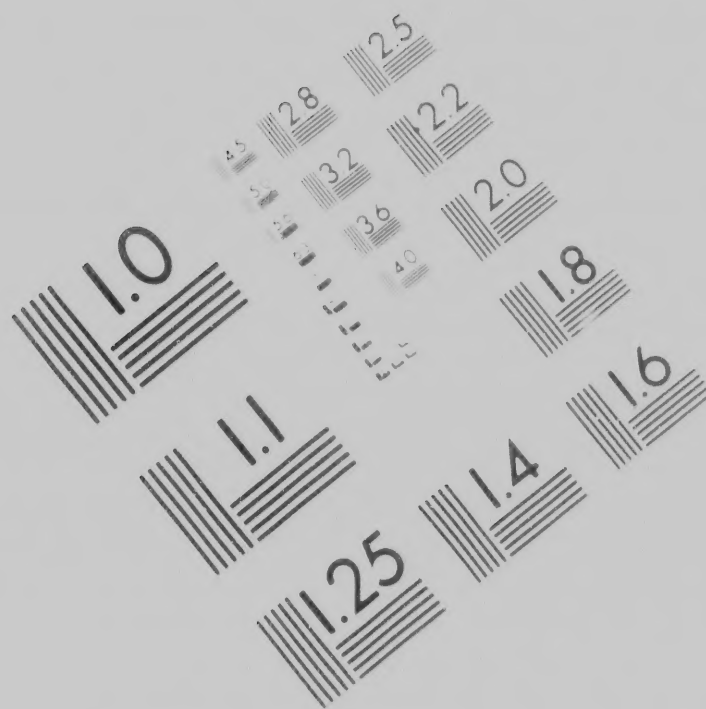
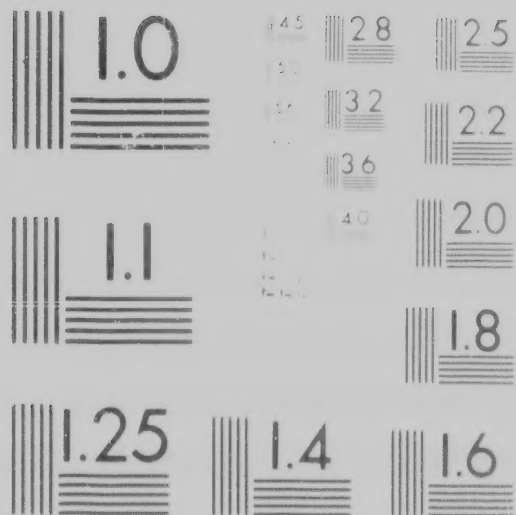
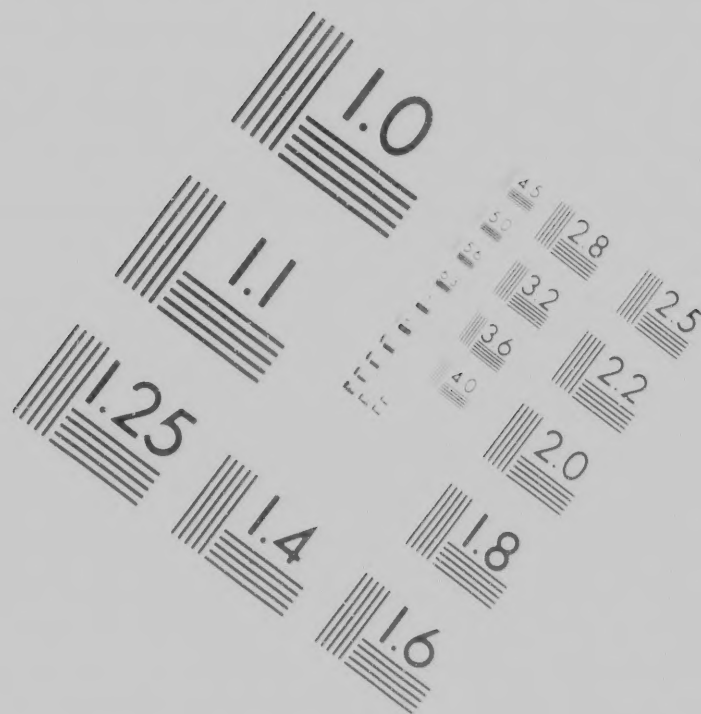




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President.

Rec^d. 4. July 1809.

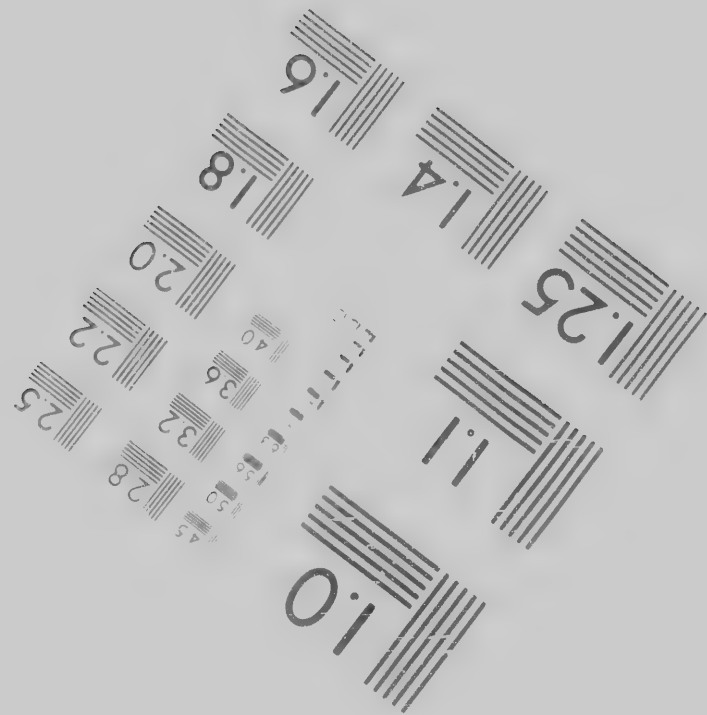
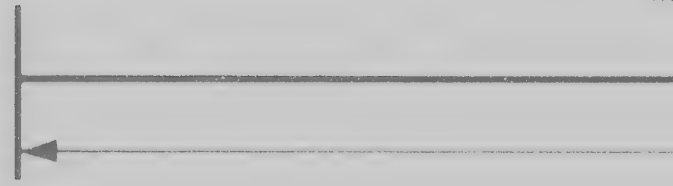
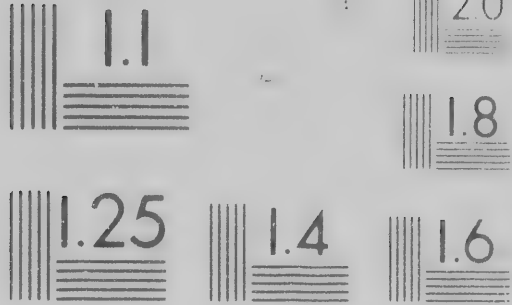


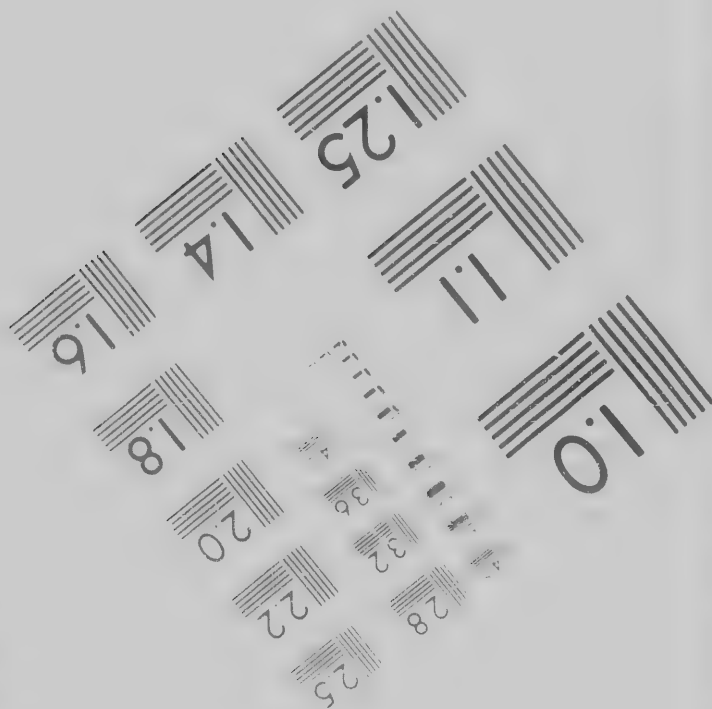
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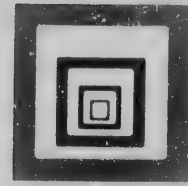


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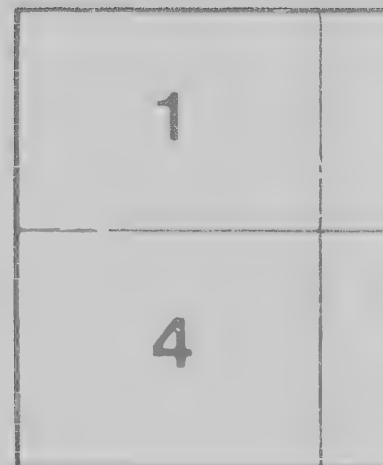
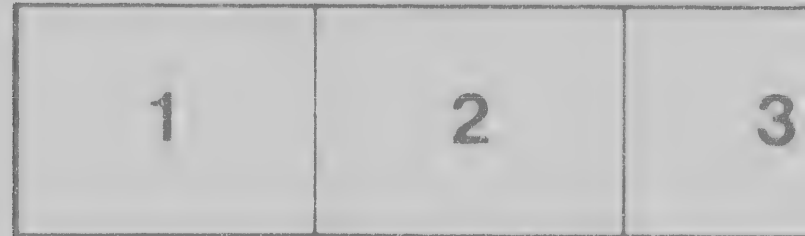
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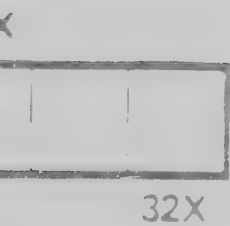
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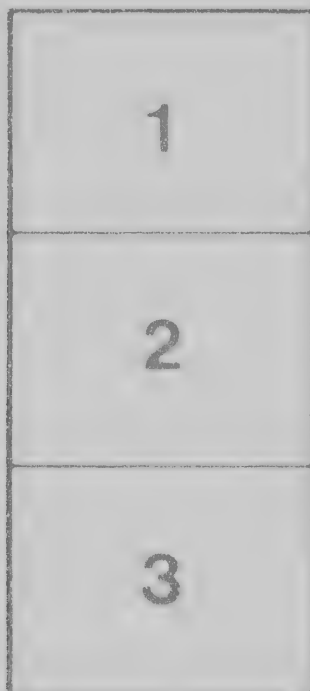
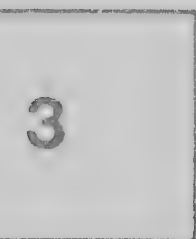


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To the President of the United States

SIR,

WE, the Citizens of RICHMOND, MANCHESTER, and many other persons from distant places, who have assembled to deplore the late hostile attack upon the Frigate Chesapeake, by a British Order of a number of American Seamen in a time of peace, and to express motives, to express those sentiments of indignation which the occasion we reflect upon the uniform course of pacific conduct which has been the United States, towards all foreign nations ; when we recollect, the irreparable insults and aggressions which Great-Britain has inflicted on our country, can only discover in this recent act of violence, the consummation of our object the prostration of neutral rights, at the feet of a haughty and arrogant Government, if negotiation is finally closed ; the first blow of war has been struck, and we are called upon to decide, whether they will rally around the standard of that glorious independence which was purchased by the valor of our fathers with their blood. At a period of such magnitude as the present, the People of America should display to the world the devotion which they owe to the Government under which they live, and their invincible determination to resist, with extremity, every outrage on their rights from whatever quarter it comes. We now address you, speak not only for themselves, but for their country, and the sentiments of the nation ; and they are confident that they will find in you the bosom of the Chief Magistrate of the Union.

When an act of unequivocal hostility has been perpetrated ; when we are permitted to leave our own ports with impunity ; when a British Commodore commences every harbor, for the capture of our Ships ; it becomes a question of honor. Whatever may be the grounds of the contest in which we are engaged, that appeal to arms, which has been made by our adversary. It is in our power to conduct, without engraving an indelible stain on our national character, to resist, with extremity, every outrage on their rights from whatever quarter it comes.

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when our armed vessels are not per-
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is impossible to pursue a temporising
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to whole countries with whom she might be at war; she has converted the rights of neutrals, according to her interest or caprice, into rigid execution; she has denied to neutrals the free use of the sea; she has denied to belligerent power the commodities which they have a right to acquire—and she has blockaded our ports and impressed our ships into her service. But, atrocious as these acts may seem, the outrage lately committed on the Frigate Chesapeake is a direct insult to Britain has never yet asserted her right to search a ship of this description is as sacred as the territory its flag covers, and an insult offered to it is a direct attack upon the rights of Britain. Conduct like this can neither be defended nor palliated. It is a conflict with the decision becoming freemen.

While we are sensible of the evils which must result from a failure in defence of our dearest rights. We are confident that we are a brave people—and that, however they may be divided and dissatisfied, by one soul in repelling the aggressions of a foreign power. We are confident that our constituted authorities, to direct with efficacy the energies of our people, and to the world, that we are prepared to support our rights of our choice, against every power upon earth.

SPM
Thomas Ritchie Secretary.

at war; she has modified, restrained and enlarged the
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Chesapeake. The most humble sycophant of Great-
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ign power. It remains for the wisdom of the consti-
ergies of the nation. It is our part to declare to you
upport, with our lives and fortunes, the government

Amos A. Phelps

Chairman.



BOSON of the Chief Magistrate of the Union.

When an act of unequivocal hostility has been perpetrated; when we are permitted to leave our own ports with impunity; when a British commerce is driven into every harbor, for the capture of our Ships; it becomes a question of honor. Whatever may be the grounds of the contest in which we are engaged, that appeal to arms, which has been made by our adversary. It is in our power to conduct, without engraving an indelible stain on our national character. Our country is at stake; and it must now be decided whether we shall maintain our rights as an independent state, or meanly crouch under the lash of an insolent

No nation upon earth has so many cogent reasons for maintaining the peace of the world, as the United States. Far removed from that bloody scene of carnage which Europe has exhibited for centuries; pursuing the even tenor of honest and virtuous glory which is only to be obtained at the expence of happiness and peace; known, which springs from an undeviating course of justice and virtue; free from the arts of courtly intrigue, and too refined for the exertion of lawless power; they have themselves with the hope, that they should escape the ravages of the war which has afflicted the old continent. America has every thing to hope from peace, and every thing to fear from war. But her growing commerce and rising prosperity, cherished by the sun of liberty, are objects too tempting to the rapacious eye of a power who arrogates to herself the dominion of the seas. From the moment when our independence was established, with malignant jealousy, the progress of a nation whom she had once despised, she has watched with moment until the present, she has waged an open or concealed war against her. It would be superfluous to dwell on the various crimes which she has committed; but it may not be improper to enumerate, a few more prominent ones, which will illustrate the spirit which has pervaded her whole conduct. She has occupied our territory; she ought to have been surrendered by treaty; she has enlarged the law of nations; she has seized our Vessels; she has established a new system of blockade, which extends not merely to the coast, but to the interior of the country.

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2/10/11
Thomas Ritchie Secretary.

